

VLR-10/6/70 NRHP-12/28/70

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Surry	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Four Mile Tree

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Four Mile Tree

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .9 mi. N of Rt. 610, .2 mi. NE of intersection with Rt. 618.

CITY OR TOWN:
(Surry vic.)

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Surry	CODE 181
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Reverend and Mrs. M.O. Young

STREET AND NUMBER:
Four Mile Tree

CITY OR TOWN: Surry	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Surry County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Surry	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: c. 1900, 1934, 1940 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C.	CODE: 08
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
COUNTY: Surry		

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Four Mile Tree Plantation House is a brick structure, one-and-one-half-stories with hip-on-gambrel roof, pedimented dormers and four interior end chimneys. The brick is laid in Flemish bond above the beveled watertable with English bond below. The entire brick surface was stuccoed and scored in imitation ashlar in the nineteenth century but the stucco has deteriorated on portions of the facade and fallen off. All openings on the five-bay facade, except for the central entranceway, were altered in the late nineteenth century or early twentieth century and have two-over-two sash; the entranceway, sheltered by a nineteenth-century Roman Ionic porch, consists of a transom over three-paneled double doors, the top panel of each being scrolled. A modillioned cornice is used on the eaves. A stuccoed brick wing was added on the east. Remaining outbuildings include a one-story frame quarters whose two chimneys each consists of twin stacks set at angles; the building seems to date from the mid-nineteenth-century revival period.

Four Mile Tree's oldest interior woodwork is in the central stair hall where the turned balustrading on the stair, the heavy hand rail and the high dado place the date in the first half of the eighteenth century. The southwest room, which probably dates from the early nineteenth century, has two framed niches flanking a simple mantel and overmantel topped by an architrave, frieze and cornice; only the cornice and a paneled dado ornament the other walls of the room. The remaining rooms have mantels which seem to date from the first half of the nineteenth century but only in the southeastern room is there a paneled room.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian) 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Four Mile Tree is a successor to two of the earliest plantations in Virginia ("Burrow's Hill" and "Pace's Paines"). It is "ancient" in its own right having been founded in the first half of the seventeenth century; its grave-site contains the oldest legible tombstone in Virginia (1650). Four Mile Tree was the seat of the Brownes, a leading Surry family, from the Reign of Charles I until the death of their last male heir in 1799. The plantation, named for its distance from Jamestown, was one of Surry County's more prosperous; its owners served as viewers of tobacco and had Negro servants from an early period. The Brownes were regularly Justices of the County Court throughout the colonial period.

Several members of the family served on the Governor's Council or in the House of Burgesses during the seventeenth century. During the War for Independence, William Browne was a member of the Surry Committee of Safety and Lieutenant Colonel of Militia. His son, the last of his name to be Master of Four Mile Tree, was a lieutenant in the revolutionary militia. The British sacked the plantation during the War of 1812 according to the then Colonel of county militia. In 1815 the plantation passed to William Browne, Jr.'s granddaughter, Sally Elizabeth Bowdoin, and her husband, General Philip St. George Cocke.

The house at Four Mile Tree is located on a bluff, high above the James River across from Jamestown Island. The site is relatively uneven, the roofline informal, the room designs varied. Such features, together with a somewhat deteriorated stucco surface, lend a picturesque and romantic quality to this eighteenth-century building, creating an atmosphere not unlike the Revival styles of the next century. Thomas T. Waterman saw in Four Mile Tree an outstanding example of those eighteenth-century structures "that are the work of master builders in which the correct detail of English handbooks is applied to purely traditional buildings". The resulting synthesis, he continued, "is a number of excellent houses that have more native quality than formal designs, and in domestic architecture constitute a group of charm and livability".

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boddie, John B., Colonial Surry, 1948.
 Bohannon, A.W., Old Surry, 1927.
Calendar of State Papers, X:239.
 Stephenson, Mary A., Old Homes in Surry & Sussex, 1942.
Tyler's Magazine, XIV (1933): 173.
Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, III (1895-6): 148-53: V(1897-8): 74-6: XXXIV (1926): 226.
 Waterman, Thomas T., The Mansions of Virginia, 1706-1776.
 Works Project Administration, Sussex County: A Tale of Three Centuries, 1942.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 12' 31"	76° 52' 08"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37° 12' 31"	76° 50' 33"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	37° 11' 34"	76° 50' 33"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	37° 11' 34"	76° 52' 08"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 250 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

August 24, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:

Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN:

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Edw. P. Alexander, Jr.

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date

10-6-70

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

STATE	Virginia
COUNTY	Surry
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Four Mile Tree			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Four Mile Tree			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
.9 mi. N of Rt. 610, .2 mi. NE of intersection with Rt. 618.			
CITY OR TOWN:			
(Surry vic.)			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	Surry	181
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7 1/2', quadrangle Surry, Virginia			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1953			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

STATE	Virginia
COUNTY	Surry
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

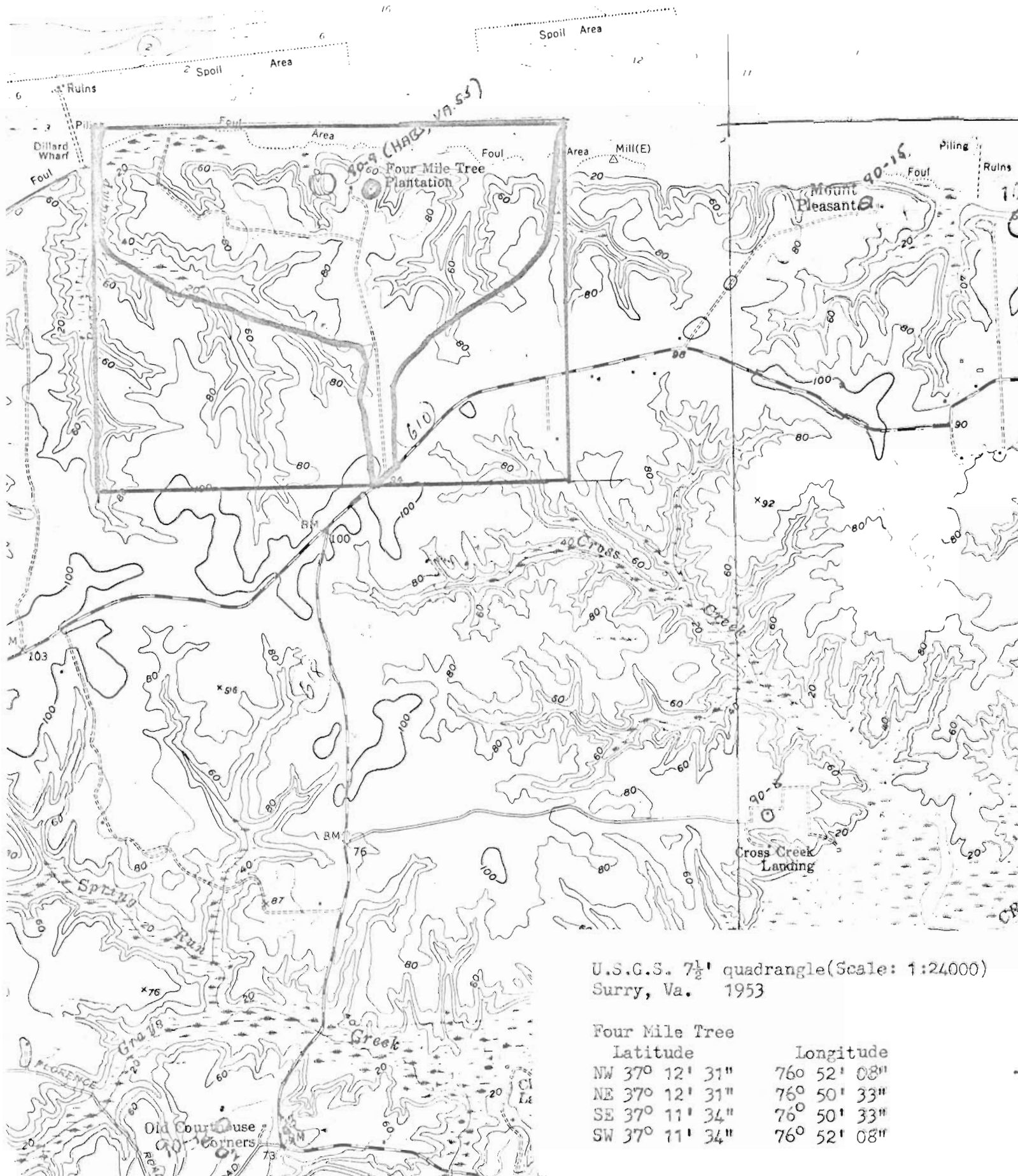
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	Surry	181
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Phil Flournoy, Virginia Chamber of Commerce			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1950			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia Chamber of Commerce			
Richmond, Virginia			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View from the south.			





U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24,000)
 Surry, Va. 1953

Four Mile Tree	
Latitude	Longitude
NW 37° 12' 31"	76° 52' 08"
NE 37° 12' 31"	76° 50' 33"
SE 37° 11' 34"	76° 50' 33"
SW 37° 11' 34"	76° 52' 08"